THE BLOOMFIELD RECORD

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WIT AND WISDOM. Enjoyment stops where indolence begins.

What God gives men as stepping stones, they often make into stumbling-blocks. Josh "never knew an auctioneer tu lie. unless it was absolutely convenient."

A man may as well expect to grow stronger by always eating, as wiser by always read

To take down the gridiron from the nail

where it is hanging with the left hand is a sign that there will be a broil in the kitchen. A shrewd old gentleman once said to his daughter: "Be sure, my dear, you never marry a poor man; but remember that the poorest man in the world is one that has money and nothing else.

He is a true philanthropist who kicks into the gutter the banana skins and orange peels he finds on the sidewalk. But he is a truer philanthropist who also kicks into the gutter the wretch who threw them there.

Tipkins aroused his wife from a sound sleep the other night, saying he had seen a ghost in the shape of an ass. "Oh, let me sleep," was the reply of the irate dame, don't be frightened at your own

A lady, returning from an unprofitable trip to church, declared that "when she saw the shawls of those Smiths, and then thought of the things her own poor girls got back to the main floe in a scow boat, a large proportion of seal flesh fat, ber to hold in the mouth to suck, to keep had to wear, if it wasn't for the consolation which sunk under one of the men, but we and subsequently, when the seals were out the cold. The people confined themof religion, she she did not know what she

"Shine ye up ?" said a litttle boot-black to a stranger, whose boots showed great depth and richness of soil. "No : clear stranger," retorted the boy, "I'll shine you up for the dirt on your boots, as a specula-

Going to Yosemite.

A writer in the Chicago Journal, who had been to the Yosemite from San Francisco, says the ride is quite laborious for ladies, and is better or easier made astride than aside, as all in our party are willing to tes-Three days is the time given to excursionists in the valley, with no extra charge for the carriages; but it is much better to consume at least five days, giving time to visit more leisurely the various points they expected, the Polaris steamed along of interest. The months of May and June down the shore. They then set up a black are the most desirable to see the valley, as the streams are all full and the falls more rubber cloth, lashed to an oar on a pinnacle. grand and beautiful than later in the season, which is the best mark in contrast with the when, also, vegetation is dried up, and the dust and heat are very objectionable. As to cost: From San Francisco, parties can engage for the round trip, allowing three days from the floe and must have seen the signal guides, at a cost of \$70. Hotel fare for the same time, \$3 per day-or, say, \$100 for the trip. I am sure I know of no other so richly worth the money to a person well enough to endure it, but I cannot advise invalids or ladies in delicate health to undertake it, except by slow stages, taking more time, and of course, being more expensive. The hotel accommodations along the route and in the valley are very good, although the very fastidious might complain of hard rule, find them both clean.

TONE-TINTS.

Out pour the organ tones. Like floods of light Of purest color, rich and full and deep, The surging sound-waves seem to swell and sweep My soul up with them to their cresting height, Then far into the dark, translucent deep Of full, majestic purple, clearest green, And coolest blue, my soul sinks with a keen Delight adown the tone-flood's shudd'ring steep, Whence gazing up into the quiv'ring maze Of color-azure, scarlet, purple, gold, Deep violet, green-my rapt soul grows more bold, And, floating upward thro' the shimmering haze Attains undazzled to the perfect White,

The shadeless Glory of the Infinite. -June Galaxy.

ON AN ICE FLOE.

The Full Story and Terrible Sufferings of the Polaris Crew who were six months on an Ice Floe.

The story told by the rescued crew of the Polaris, of ther six months' existence on an ice floe is thrilling in the extreme. Buddington, who was in command of the vesse after Captain Hall's death, abandoned the expedition altogether, and started for home on August 12. On the 15th of October the ship had drifted from latitude 80 deg. 2 min. to 77 deg. 35 min., when she encountered a heavy gale from the southeast, and was jammed by a heavy pressure of ice and bergs. The ice lifted her out of the water, so that she only drew six feet, and lay on her beam ends every low tide. At the six feet water mark she broke her stern started wood-ends. On the night of 15th, fearing she would be crushed, and the vessel being reported leaking very badly, an order was given to shift provisions from ship to ice. They continued landing for two or three hours, when the pressure ceased. Tyson then went on board and asked the sailing master if the vessel was making any more water than usual; he reported that she was not. Tyson went to the pumps and ascertained that she was not making any more water than she had been all summer. He then went on the ice again. The rescued party were on the ice alongside the vesse where the provisions were deposited; the remainder of the ship's company were on board. The ice commenced to crack, and, in a few minutes more, broke up into pieces. The vessel broke from her fastenings and was soon lost to sight in the storm and

On the broken ice were most of the provisions that had been taken from the ship. of which they succeeded in securing fourteen cans of pemican, eleven and a half pags of bread, ten dozen one and two-pound cans of meat and soup, fourteen hams, one small bag of chocolate, weighing twenty pounds, some musk-ox skins, a few blan-

What must have been the feelings of the nineteen persons on the ice, five of whom were feeble women and helpless children, as the saw the vessel, which to them was the only means of salvation, drift slowly away? Around them was the breaking and float-

ing ice, which every moment threatened to engulph all in the cold clutches of death. Right in their sight the vessel moved away. They could not reach her. She could not or did not attempt to put back for them. probability might never be seen again, crowded upon the imagination, and it required all the efforts of the strong, brave men to quiet the weeping women and chil-

Heron says :- "I made a rush for the vessel and sung out for a line, but they would not give me one. Chester and Buddington were standing on the gangway and could have thrown me one. I was with four others on the piece of ice that had provisions on it. It cracked off and went adrift. We all got safely back."

Tyson says :- "I could have got aboard the vessel that night and been there now, but would not leave the women and children. ont!" was the surly reply. "See here My duty was on the ice. I thought he would get back to us the next day, which he could have done. The breaking away was caused by the floe, to which the ship was fastened, drifting in between the land and some icebergs that were jammed. The jam broke up the floe and the vessel broke away. It was about nine or ten o'clock in the night temperature about zero—that evening it had been nineteen degrees above. We did not save more than one-tenth of the provisions that were on the ice."

Instead of coming to the rescue, ice and is easily distinguishable. The ship was at this time about eight or nine miles in the valley, including all tolls, horses and She was soon lost to sight in the bend of the land and behind what they took to be Northumberland Island. The wind hauling to the northeast, the floe commenced drifting southwards, opening a little bay to the northeast of Northumberland Island.

furled, and no smoke issuing from her stack. There was no balmy breath of night; all They then attempted to bring the boats

board the vessel from there; succeeded in tomed to it, and objects which at first were vice of Captain Tyson, and after much and attempted to reach the shore some dis. ed at a distance. The Esquimaux of the abandon their late home and endeavor to tance below the vessel, but were driven party were, of course, used to the long, regain the main pack. This was on the back by the gale, drifts, and snow, and compelled to haul up the boat on the ice again. The vessel was about four or five miles from the floe at this time. The mainland was to the east, about three or four miles. -Tyson says :- "All that prevented

from reaching the vessel was "slob" or posh' too thick for us to pull the boat through. If II had known what was to follow I would have gone through it or

Now commenced the drift from the 25th of October, 1872, to the 30th of April, 1873, over six months, or 197 days. Night closed upon the scene last described. The abandoned party had fortunately two boats, the only remaining boats belonging to the Po-

The gale during the night carried the floe and its unfortunate occupiers to the southwest, and in the morning they were about ed almost entirely from hunting it during they happily obtained possession of as above thirty miles away from where the ship was, the Stygian darkness. It must not be unlying comfortably at anchor. A heavy sea derstood from this that the Arctic winter's into the water, and they worked their way was running, which broke up the floe and night does not vary in duration, as it lasts separated the party from six bags of brerd, months longer in some latitudes than in of reaching some part of the Labrador coast. one of the boats, and other articles of others; but it must be remembered The only then remaining shelter was a cangale abated they endeavored to shoot as diminishing the period of that darkness the winter camp. On the 22d of April the many seals as possible for food and light which reigned at Northumberland Island boat happened to become separated from as well as fuel, but did not succeed in get- and approaching the light of " other days." ting more than three, owing to rough wea- In the latter part of February they lived ther having set in. When the weather cleared up the party found themselves, as were picked up between the ice cracks. they supposed, on either the east or the west coast of Greenland, about forty miles from the ship. They now hoped to reach rifle and seals and birds. The sun appearcould not transport boats and provisions to for the first time after its disappearance in shore until it grew stronger. Fortunately November, rising at half-past eleven A. M. they here discovered the other boat, provisions, etc., from which they had been separated, and saved all. The ice at leng therew stronger, and they made another attempt to longer until the party was picked up. reach the shore, carrying everything in the boats, and dragging them on their keels. The ice being exceedingly rough, they store both boats, which did not, however, render

them useless. night and stormy weather came on, and prevented further progress. In the morning it was found that the ice was broken and the floe drifting south very swiftly. No more land was seen some for some days, and bad weather continued throughout November. kets, a number of rifles and abundant am- Then, giving up all hope of present rescue, they built snow houses on the ice, reconciled to make them their home for a sea-

> These huts were houses of snow, construcconverging towards the top; the sides, surmounted by a block of snow, which formed was imitated by all. the roof, leaving a small hole for ventila-

base, barely large enough for a man to crawl at that time a little delicate, but would subthrough. Any larger space would destroy sequently, they say, have eaten a roast dog Thoughts of home and friends, who in all the usefulness of the house by allowing acthe first appearance of wet or thaw have seals entrails, etc., afterwards. generally to be abandoned. The disposition of the Esquimaux to consumption is not only the flesh and fat of the seals they attributable, among other causes, to this were fortunate enough to get, but also the method of life, constantly exposing them- bones, skins, entrails, and all intestines and selves to the damp cold of their melting appurtenances. Captain Tyson showed two

scarce, even seal skins.

Three of the huts were for dwelling houses and one for a storehouse. In one lived Captain Tyson, Joe, and Hannah his wife, and one child; in the second, Hans Christian, wife and four children; in the third, Mr. Myers and eight men. These huts were built side by side on the floe, and were continuously occupied from November to April, when they were obliged to abandon them. They had no materials for fire, ex cept old rags and blubber-both scarcewhich had to be used very sparingly, and only when it was necessary to warm their scanty allowance of food, so that for nearly the whole six months they were without fire, a peculiarly distressing position under the circumstances, especially as these huts, unless heated artificially, are extremely

The darkness of the Arctic night, which lasts a long time, and commences about December 1, prevented the catching of seals or other animals except by accident. Then the sun disappeared, and did not reappear until the end of January or beginning of February. During this period day was not distinguishable from night, except by means of a streak of light on the southern horizon which, however, afforded no light to our unfortunate wanderers. It was a darkness There was the vessel in harbor, her sails unlike the darkness of southern latitudes. was cold and cheerless and desolate. Day across the floe in an easterly direction, hop- succeeded day, and still the darkness coning to find water and reach the shore, to tinued. Gradually the eye became accus-

dark winter and thought lightly of it, but it 1st of April, and, with the floe and huts, was not so with the Americans and other they also abandoned all their stock of meat, members of the expedition. Some of them a large quantity of ammunition, clothing, which spread out before them. Those became necessary to throw that overboard. dark color of the animal prevented it from of it in the midst of darkness was attended with so many perils that few had the temerity to engage in it. Even the Esquimaux, who were familiar with the habits of the seal and knew its every movement, refrainthat drifting south, they were gradually vas tent, erected after the annihilation of principally on birds dove-keys which

The provisions lasted until nearly March, when the party had to fall back upon the the shore, but the ice being weak, they ed on the horizon on the 19th of January and setting at half-past twelve P. M. After the sun set there was twilight for six or seven hours. The days after that rapidly grew

On the last of February they had remainin which the maddned sea was seething ing of their provisions brought from the vessel only two cans of pemican and 120 pounds of bread-the latter wet and mouldy. One of the boats was cut up to make On the 1st of November they succeeded fuel to melt the ice into water to drink ting about halfway to the shore, when During the time they were without blubber the provisions were eaten cold.

The natives were very faithful in their exertions to kill seals during the months of darkness; but, as said before, they rarely succeeded, the difficulties and dangers attending the undertaking being very great. Starvation now stared the party in the face, and the return of the sun, though it gave some promise of succor, found every one, even the most hopeful, cheerless and despondent. But work and action were necess ted of a circular form at the base, gradually sary to sustain life, and Captain Tyson set an example of energy and industry which

A lot of Esquimaux dogs drifted on the floe, most of which Hans and his family re The entrance was a small vacuum at the galed themselves upon. The whites were

Captain Tyson says he wanted the men cess to the cold and wind. These houses, to save the dogs, kill and store them up for while the weather continues hard and dry, some hungry day; but they would not, not are warm and tolerably comfortable, but on thinking at the time that they would ear After the provisions gave out the men ate

of his front teeth, broken by chewing up Their food from this time was a prudent frozen seal bones, while at times it was conallowance of such provisions as they had, with sidered a great luxury to get a lump of blubselves for days together to their huts during the cold drifts, spending their time sleeping wrapped up in skins.

In March they got among the seals an procured plenty of meat, upon which they were entirely supported after that. One night a very large polar bear approached their encampment and commenced eating their seal skins lying about. The natives were directed to imitate the seals, lying prostrate on the ice, in order to entice the monster within a convenient shooting dis tance : but they were all afraid, whites and all, and fled. Tyson fired one shot, which wounded the bear, who thereupon faced and attacked him. Tyson had to retreat to get more ammunition, and, returning, dis patched him. This was a welcome addition to their scanty storehouse, so they took the precaution to save up bears' flesh, seals skins, entrails, &c., and in this way collected enough food to last them until the mid dle of May, should they not by that time reach some land or vessel.

But a greater misfortune, perhaps, than any overtook the heroic little band of settlers on the ocean. About the end of March | the Tigress' crew. a heavy gale drove them out to sea, broke up the floe on which they had lived so many snow and newly stored stock of food. Their floe, which had been nearly five miles twenty yards in diameter. The consequence was that they concluded, by the ad- coffin plata.

dragging one boat across, took the water dim and indistinct could be plainly discern- altereation and difference of opinion, to had had experience in the northern lati- skins and other articles. A small portion tudes, but never such a trying one as this, of the meat was put into the boat, in which and their hearts might have well failed them they now again took to the water; but owwhen they thought of the dreary prospect ing to the boat being too heavily laden, it who read this narrative in their comfortable | On the 3d and 4th of April the outer edge homes can form but a faint impression of of the main body of ice was regained, and the sufferings which these people endured. some progress made inwards. The elements The greatest privation which the darkness still adverse, a tremendous gale and heavy occasioned was that it put a stop for the sea breaking the ice into yet smaller pieces, time to the seal hunting, which to the crew continuously hindered and threatened them was the chief means of sustenance. The with destruction, so that they were obliged to confine themselves to small pans, changbeing seen at any distance, and the parsuit ing their positions from time to time as dangers necessitated. It was impossible to launch the boat, no seals had been taken, and actual starvation was inevitable.

> It was at this crisis that, on the 21st of April, fortune sent the polar bear, which described. The boat was afterwards got west and southwest every day in the hope this tent some seven or eight feet. The weather, which had been fine for some days previously, with hardly any wind, suddenly shifted, and a terrific storm, accompanied with sleet and snow, sprang up. More suddenly still, and without any warning sounds whatever, the ice between the boat and tent burst asunder, with a loud and deafening explosion. A cry was at once raised to stand by the bont." Fred Myer, in the darkness (for it was night) managed to reach it, though, in attempting to do so, he narrowly escaped being swept into the chasm caused by the separation of the ice floe, and

and the shattered and scattered fragments of the ice were tossing wildly against each other. Having reached the boot in safety his first act was to look round for his companions. None were to be seen and nothing heard, mye the roaring of the temper and the grinding and the crunching of the clumpers as they were driven with terrific violence by the sea. To remain where he was would be, he knew, to court immediate destruction. The pan upon which he tottered was becoming smaller and smaller every moment, and, great as was the hazard, he determined, if possible, to launch the boat again, and, though desperate the attempt, to cross the chasm that divided him from his companions. But this was no easy task. The sea was breaking wildly over the pan. The boat was heavily laden, and it seemed as if his remaining strength. though doubled by that desperate situation. was unequal to the required task. Several times did he make the attempt, and twice was he washed from the pan into the sea by the violence of the waves that dashed over and overwhelmed it. The cold was intense, terribly argumented by the chilling and freezing water with which he was covered and saturated. Infthis awful situation but little hope remained of his ever again beholding his comrades or even preserving his

In a moment, as if by magic, the storm fulled and the surge subsided, and, strain ing his eyes through the blackness of that Plutonian night in the direction in which he supposed the rest of the party were, he discovered the two Esquimanx, Joe and Hans, each standing on a small piece of ice and paddling towards him. These interpid and hardy sons of the "region of thick-ribbed ice" were not deterred by dangers which would have blanched the cheeks and made the hearts of men bold enough to seek the bauble reputation even at the cannon's mouth stand petrified with awe. But for them the ses eemed to have no terrors as for common men. In a second the horrors of the preceding moment were forgotten. Hope once more bloomed in all its fullness, regardless of the innumerable perils beyond, and, strength thus revived with eager hope, the boat was launched and they joyfully rejoined their companions.

own life.

On the 29th of April two steamers hove in ight of the storm-tossed mariners, which now renewed all their long-cherished and constantly blighted expectations of rescue. They made signals, but were probably not observed. This fresh and heartrending disappointment was atoned for on the morrow, when the sealing steamship Tigress, of St. John's, Newfoundland, accidentally, in a dense fog, steamed against the very floe of ice which was their habitation. Three cheers from the rescued company rent the air, and were as vehemently and joyously sent back by the 130 men who compose

Look after your boys nights; keep them months, and on which stood their homes of at home, and give them a magazine to read or a new game to play; petty meality comes from sidewalk loating, and the see of consumption are quickly sown among in circumference, was by this untoward ea- those who hang about the corners when the lamity reduced to a pan of ice no more than bed is waiting for them. Ten dollars for books and little things to make home pleasant is much better that a sheriff's fees or a



(E) (A)